

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Initially, applicants note an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed on June 10, 2004, and at this time applicants have not received confirmation of consideration of the references cited therein. Applicants respectfully request that IDS be acknowledged as considered by returning an initialed form PTO-1449 to applicants. For convenience a copy of that filed IDS and the date-stamped filing receipt is provided herewith.

Claims 15-24 are pending in this application. Claims 18-20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,208,427 B1 to Lee. Claims 15-17 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. patent 6,462,756 B1 to Hansen et al. (herein "Hansen").

Addressing the above-noted rejections, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Initially with respect to independent claims 18 and 24, applicants note those claims are amended by the present response to now positively recite the operations therein performed by a "printer driver". The claimed features are believed to clearly distinguish over Lee.

As discussed in the present specification with respect to the background, when an image to be printed is edited, a document can be processed in an application.¹ However, the applicants of the present recognized that such an editing in an application cannot be simply performed and processed by a printer driver, and therefore the claimed invention provides a novel printing image forming apparatus and method enabling an operator to simply edit, on a printer driver, a document on a computer and to print the document.² Thereby, in the present

¹ Specification at page 1, lines 19-21.

² Specification at page 2, lines 4-9.

apparatus and method an application is first activated to issue an order to print an original document, and then a printer driver is activated to start to operate.³ Then, various steps are taken by the printer driver to allow the printing of the document. Such features of the performing the noted operations in a printer driver of a printing image forming apparatus are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art to Lee.

Thus, in the present invention an editing process on image data is performed on the printer driver instead of on applications, unlike the prior art. More specifically, display of the image data on a screen is performed on the printer driver in the prior art; however, the editing process is not performed on the printer driver in the prior art.

Lee is directed to a personal digital assistant (PDA) that includes a fax modem 160 that transmits and receives fax data to allow the fax data to be transmitted, to thereby be printed.⁴

However, applicants submit that in such ways Lee differs from independent claims 18 and 24 as currently written. More specifically, Lee is not directed to operations performed in a **printer driver**. In Lee the actual printing operation is performed by a fax machine and a control in Lee is part of a personal digital assistant (PDA), which is not a printing image forming apparatus, that merely allows fax transmission. Lee is clearly not directed to the claimed operations performed by a printer driver.

In such ways, independent claims 18 and 24, and the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to clearly distinguish over Lee.

With respect to the further rejection of claims 15-17 and 21-23 based on the combination of Lee in view of Hansen, each of claims 15-17 and 21-23 as currently written is believed to clearly distinguish over that combination of teachings.

³ Specification at page 4, lines 1-4.

⁴ See for example Lee at column 3, lines 1-13 and line 61 *et seq.*

First, applicants respectfully submit the noted combination of teachings does not meet all the claim limitations. The claims are directed to a device in which a printer driver can perform an editing operation. Lee is recognized as not disclosing or suggesting such a feature, and applicants note that Hansen does not disclose or suggest such a feature. That is, Hansen is merely directed to a device for managing printing work flow. Hansen does not disclose or suggest that a printer driver therein can allow the editing of information. Thus, even the newly cited combination of teachings of Lee in view of Hansen does not fully meet the claim limitations.

Moreover, applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to even combine the teachings of Hansen to those of Lee.

As noted above Lee is directed to a personal digital assistant (PDA) that can transmit fax data to be printed.

Hansen is directed to a system and method for managing production printing work flow. Such a system as Hansen has no relevance whatsoever to the teachings in Lee. Lee is not directed to a printer or any type of printer system, and thus Lee would have no use to utilize a system of managing production printing work flow. The only context that the teachings in Hansen have any relevance to Lee is to be applied to the device to which Lee faxes the print data from the PDA of Lee. However such a teaching in Hansen has no relevance whatsoever to the actual PDA disclosed in Lee.

In setting forth the rejection based on the combination of teachings of Lee in view of Hansen, the outstanding Office Action states:

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified '756 [Hansen] into '427 [Lee] to provide a controlling device for a printing image. One of the ordinary skills in the art would have been motivated to perform such a modification to provide a print image forming device that [is] capable of producing [a] high quality document and the ability to manipulate the original

document plus the instruction for producing the finishing product in either hard copy or electronic form, such as on floppy disk, compact disc or tape or can be transmitted to a printer over a network such as the Internet, as taught by '756 [Hansen] at col. 1, lines 15-45 (i.e.... capable of producing high quality...)⁵

The above-noted basis for the outstanding rejection is not believed to be proper as it is not based on any teachings in Lee in view of Hansen.

The above-noted basis for the outstanding rejection appears to suggest applying the teachings in Hansen into the device of Lee to provide a controlling device for a printing image. However such an objective is non-sensical in the device of Lee. Lee is directed to a personal digital assistant (PDA) and is not directed to a device for printing an image. Lee discloses a device that transmits fax data from the PDA to be printed. The PDA of Lee has no relevance whatsoever to a device for printing an image. It would make no sense to modify Lee to be a printing control device as that is not the objective of the device of Lee. Lee utilizes an existing printing device to print images from the PDA disclosed therein. However, the device of Lee is not directed to a control device for printing an image but is merely a device that can transmit an image by fax to later be printed.

Further, the above-noted statement indicating realizing a device that can produce a high quality document is again irrelevant to the device of Lee. Lee is not directed to a print image forming device, but again is directed to a device that can transmit by facsimile data to be printed. In Lee that data is faxed to a print image forming device, but the PDA of Lee itself is not a print image forming device and is not even similar to the device of Hansen. The device of Hansen at most would be similar to the device to which Lee transmits the fax data to be printed.

⁵ Office Action of September 10, 2004, page 5, second paragraph.

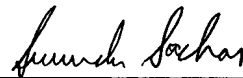
In such ways, applicants respectfully submit the noted combination of teachings of Hansen in view of Lee would not have been suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art.

For these foregoing reasons, applicant submit claim 15-17 and 21-24 distinguish over Hansen in view of Lee.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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